



Making a difference...together

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October 27, 2017

Electoral Area Directors  
Municipal Corporate Officers

Via E-mail

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
RECEIVED: OCT 30 2017		
Referred:		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

File: 0400-50  
Local Government

Dear Electoral Area Directors and Municipal Corporate Officers:

**RE: REQUEST TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO IDENTIFY LANDS IN THE CAPITAL REGION THAT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR AFFORDABLE AND MARKET RENTAL HOUSING PURPOSES**

At its October 11, 2017 Board meeting, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board passed the following resolution:

*Therefore Be It Resolved That the Chair of the Capital Region Housing Corporation and the CRD Chief Administrative Officer enter into discussions with local governments and other governmental agencies with a view to identifying lands that could be made available for affordable and market rental housing purposes.*

The Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the CRD under the authority of the Land Banking and Housing By-law 3712 of the CRD.

The CRHC owns and operates 1,286 units of non-profit housing in 45 communities across seven municipalities.

The CRD has the ability to land bank under the Land Banking and Housing authority.

Funding Opportunities

Through access to land, the CRD/CRHC in partnership with municipalities and electoral areas can be better positioned to access funding and increase opportunities to affordable housing in the region. Currently there are opportunities to invest in affordable housing by all levels of government:

- The CRD, BC Housing and Island Health entered into a partnering agreement in May 2016 to invest \$60 million in mixed market housing through the Regional Housing First Program.
- In September 2017, the Province announced an investment of \$208 million over four years to build 1,700 new units of affordable housing across the Province for a wide variety of populations, including low-to-moderate renters, seniors and adults with developmental disabilities or mental health challenges.
- The Federal Government will be releasing the National Housing Strategy this fall. It is anticipated that there will be investments in affordable housing funding programs in the 2018-2019 Federal budget.

Please advise if your municipality or electoral area has lands available for affordable and market rental housing purposes and provide consideration on entering into a partnership with the CRD.

The Chair of the Capital Region Housing Corporation and I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this further. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



**Robert Lapham**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**

cc: **Barbara Desjardins, Chair, CRD Board**  
**David Howe, Chair, Hospitals and Housing Committee**  
**David Screech, Chair, Capital Region Housing Corporation**  
**Keyin Lorette, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services**  
**Christine Culham, Senior Manager, Regional Housing**  
**Karla Campbell, Senior Manager, Salt Spring Island Administration**